

**Minutes**  
**Sanilac Township Planning Commission**

March 7, 2024 6:00 PM  
Sanilac Township Hall  
Port Sanilac, MI 48469

**Meeting Called to Order** at 6:00 PM by Acting Chair Corinne Falls

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Members Present:** Bob Dear, Corinne Falls, Dan Finn, Branden Mack, &  
Board Representative Bill Noelke

Absent: John Goike, Denise Bush, & Zoning Administrator Kurtis Steeb

Guests: (1) Bill Fealko 1955 S. Lakeshore Rd.

**Additions to the Agenda:** 1009 S. Lakeshore construction added to New Business

**Approve Agenda:** *Motion by B. Noelke, seconded by D. Finn, "to approve the agenda as amended," Motion passed*

**Public Comment/Communications:** Bill Fealko asked about the frequency of inspections for short-term rentals. He has a short-term rental at 1951 S. Lakeshore Rd.

**Approve Minutes:**

*Motion by B. Noelke, seconded by B. Mack, "to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2024 Regular Meeting" Motion passed*

**Board Representative Report:** B. Noelke confirmed that there is \$40,000 in the Township budget this year to cover all of the Planning Commission expenses for the Short-term rental ordinance, the Master Plan revision, committees, attorney fees, etc., and that the Township Board is looking into getting tablets for the Planning Commission.

**Zoning Administrator Report:**

February Permits: (1)

1. 2575 State Rd. – 30' x 40' pole barn

**Accept the Reports:**

*Motion by D. Finn, seconded by B. Mack, "to accept the reports," Motion passed*

**Old Business:**

1. Short-Term Rental Committee: B. Mack reported that the committee held another meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Adam Young answered the question that was brought up by the committee about recreational vehicles not being used as part of a short-term rental because of safety issues. The next step for the short-term rental ordinance is the public hearing.

*Motion by B. Mack, seconded by B. Noelke "to approve the \$450 to have Adam Young of Wade Trim attend the public hearing." Motion carried*

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*Motion by D. Finn, seconded by B. Dear “to hold the public hearing for the short-term rental ordinance draft on May 2 at 5:30 PM.” Motion carried*

Copies of the ordinance will be made available prior to the public hearing on the website and in person at the Township Hall. B. Mack also explained that there will be an STR administrator who will be appointed to handle applications for short-term rentals, and that the Fire Department is willing to inspect homes for short-term rentals if we want them to.

2. Master Plan Survey Committee: B. Dear reported that the size of the post cards to be sent out by Clear Ideas for the survey would be 4 ¼ x 5 ½. The card would also be a thicker stock of paper similar to a business card. Surveys will be sent out in mid-April or early May. Post cards will be printed at a cost of \$753.40 with no additional charges.
3. Renewable Energy Laws: B. Dear mentioned that the Township Board felt that we should wait to see what happens with the petition drive before revising our wind and solar ordinances. Commissioners feel that we should proceed with an update so that we are prepared in case the petition drive is unsuccessful. The general feeling also was that we should wait for and review the sample ordinance from the Michigan Township Association, which would be no cost to the township.

**New Business:**

1. Construction at 1009 S. Lakeshore: B. Dear received emails from Barb Haman and Halusia Witkowski concerning the construction and piles of dirt at 1009 S. Lakeshore. The ongoing construction apparently has been a problem for several years with multiple past violations of the building permit and huge piles of excavated dirt. B. Dear forwarded the emails to the township zoning administrator. One idea was to suggest that they also contact the county building department to see what can be done. Commissioners will wait to see what the zoning administrator can find out about the situation.

**Upcoming Scheduled Meetings:**

Regular meeting Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM

**Motion to Adjourn** by D. Finn

**Meeting Adjourned:** by Acting Chair Corinne Falls at 7:32 PM

Submitted by: Bob Dear  
Planning Commission Secretary